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Mayor Faulconer Kicks Off Program to Provide Water Bill Relief to San Diegans in Need

CITY'S NEW 'H2O SD' PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE HELP TO AT LEAST 500 SAN DIEGO FAMILIES

SAN DIEGO – As part of his goal to give San Diegans in all neighborhoods the opportunity to succeed, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer and California Assemblymember Todd Gloria officially launched the City of San Diego's new "Help to Others" or "H2O" program that will help 500 San Diego households with their water bills this year. Starting today, San Diegans can call 2-1-1 to see if they qualify for the program.

"Water is critically important to every San Diegan, which is why this program can make a significant impact for low-income families," Mayor Faulconer said. "The 'Help to Others' program will provide relief to these households before they are in crisis and give residents an opportunity to lend a hand to their neighbors in need. This program is the first of its kind in the county and I'm calling on businesses and residents alike to consider donating so we can expand it in the years to come."

The program is being launched with a \$150,000 donation from Service Line Warranties of America, which presented a check to the city today.

In the program's first year, \$50,000 has been allocated to help 500 low-income households. The funds will be allotted by a first-come, first-served basis. The remaining funds will be distributed in the second and third years of the project.

San Diego residents and businesses are also being encouraged to donate to grow the program in the future. Donations can be made at sandiego.gov/h20sd.

Recognizing San Diegans needed assistance Assemblymember Todd Gloria had this to say about the program.

"As a City Councilmember and now a State Assemblymember, my top concern is always helping San Diegans to make ends meet. With the rising cost of living, I knew we had to do something to help San Diegans who struggle to pay their water bills and that's why I pushed for the H2O Program," said Assemblymember Todd Gloria. "This program is a meaningful solution to show hard working San Diegans that we get it and we want to help."

Councilman Chris Cate says the program comes at just the right time.

"While conserving water is a way of life in San Diego, there are many families struggling to make ends meet. The H2O SD Program assists San Diego families with their water bills, relying solely on the generosity of others. These funds will bridge the gap during a time of need, "Cate said.

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